

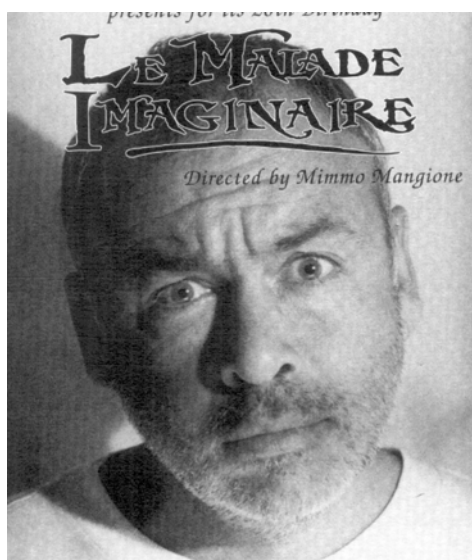


Joyeux Noël à tous

Celebrating its 20 year anniversary this year, Melbourne French Theatre Inc. has had much to be proud of: our 20th anniversary party, a full Molière production, a play reading by Marivaux and some valuable new members on the Committee.

1997 Season

Le Malade Imaginaire by Molière



Jean-Jacques Portail as Argan/Molière
Jean-Jacques Portail stole the show with his dramatic performance of Argan in *Le Malade Imaginaire* in June this year. He was joined by a cast of eleven: the provocative, the beautiful and dramatic *Angélique* played by Cynthia Sica, the versatile *Cléante* played by Xavier Lamure, the threatening *Docteur Purgon* by Bruno Chéné, the flowery “speeched” *Thomas Diafoirus* by newcomer to the theatre, Hugues Bouclier, and his eccentric father, the doctor, *Monsieur Diafoirus* played by Michael Bula, *Argan’s* spiteful wife, *Béline* played by Bernadette Dejean de la Bâtie, his wise sister, *Beraldine* played by Catherine Ross, the clever servant *Toinette* played by Laurence Dubourg, *Louison*, *Argan’s* daughter played by the talented Eloïse Mignon and last but not least, the Chemist *Monsieur Fleurant* and the *Notaire*, *Monsieur Bonnefoi*, both played by Eddie Fatha.

Some 800 people attended the 13

performances over the two week period in May/June and the play was judged an artistic success thanks to the talents of Mimmo Mangione as director, Bronnie Tweddle, as assistant, not to mention the efficiently organised administration and box office, thanks to Ubaldo Mantelli.

***Le Petit-Maître Corrigé* by Marivaux**

In November, the Melbourne French Theatre took to the stage again with the play reading of *Le Petit-Maître Corrigé* by Marivaux directed by Mimmo Mangione. Held at the Italian Cultural Institute in South Yarra, accompanied by the sweet tunes of Brighid Tonks, the play reading was once again *un grand succès!* The play reading attracted some new faces to the Melbourne French Theatre, including Valérie Charles as *Marion*, Blandine O’Neill as *Hortense* and Eve Chapelet as *Dorimène*. Other actors included Dominique Gibert, Hugues Bouclier, Michael Bula, Nicholas Panayotis and Angèle Cadge.

In addition, the new Consul General of France, Mr Rollon Mouchel-Blaisot and his wife, Gina, were guests of honour at the last performance.

Mr Mouchel-Blaisot has only recently commenced his post with the French Consulate in Melbourne and takes over from Madame Isabelle Costa de Beauregard. Educated in both law and political science, he has an impressive background in the public and diplomatic sectors in France, his last post being the Principal Private Secretary to the former French Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Mr Mouchel-Blaisot gave a magnificent address at the conclusion of the play and we look forward to his continued support of the theatre over the next few years.



Dorante, Frontin and Le Comte

Committee

MFT Committee Structure Changes

Le Souffleur

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Program, Assistance etc..

Behind the scenes, the Melbourne French Theatre Committee provides invaluable administrative and artistic advice and management to the company.

This year, structural changes on the Committee have given increased responsibility to certain members. Michael Bula is now Executive Director. Mimmo Mangione takes on the role of Artistic Director and Ubaldo Mantelli is Finance Administration Director. Angèle Cade remains as Secretary. Suzie Bourne and Dominique Gibert, the other Committee members will provide support as necessary.

Subscriptions

New Subscribers' benefits

Just a reminder that subscription fees for Melbourne French Theatre 1998 are due in January.

Due to rising costs, MFT must significantly reduce its general mailing list. So, if you have been receiving material free for some time, we appeal to you to join, so you can be kept informed, otherwise you will miss out.

Do read and complete the form enclosed to reap new benefits in 1998 and show your support for our activities, so MFT can continue to present its wonderful productions! Please join/rejoin today.

Tax Deductible Donations

In the subscription form, we urge you to consider a fully tax deductible donation of \$75 or more, for which we issue a tax receipt. This reduces your taxable income and benefit a worthy cause.

Subscribers' News

Au revoir

MFT is sad to say goodbye to Xavier Lamure who heads back to France this Christmas. Xavier played in *Le Serviteur de Deux Maîtres* and *Le Malade Imaginaire* and has been a great supporter of the theatre. We wish him the best of luck in Paris!

Welcome back

A big welcome back to Dominique Gibert who has recently returned from France and

now a permanent resident in Australia! Félicitations!

Our youngest member

Michael and Maggie Bula are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Heidi Sofia France, born on 5 September 1997... and already quite an actress!

1998 Program

- Preview - Play reading, Workshop and lectures - *La Tempête* by Shakespeare in French - **MARCH**
- Full theatre production - *La Tempête* by Shakespeare in French - **JUNE**
- Restaurant evenings - **PERIODIC**
- Other Production - **OCTOBER**

Set Storage

Once again many thanks to the great friends of MFT, John and Joy Foers, whom we wish to thank and acknowledge for providing us with their "Ripponlea Garage", now overflowing with sets.

MFT is desperately seeking more set storage for a "peppercorn" rent on a long term basis, as well as space for painting and construction of the set for the 1998 Program.

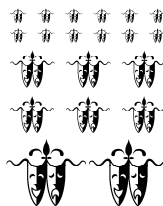
Please call us **as soon as possible**.

Rehearsal Space

A school, church or other hall, with special viewing privileges, would be the ideal for rehearsal space for our 1998 Program.

In order for MFT to continue to bring high standard productions, good rehearsal space is essential and **urgently** sought.

Can you help?



Le Souffleur

We are looking for casual or permanent contributors to *Le Souffleur*, to review our productions, restaurant nights and special events. Can you help or suggest anyone ?

Production

MFT is seeking

- actors
- directors
- graphic artists
- stage managers
- production managers
- administration assistants

for future productions. To save time, only send your CV to our address below.

Sponsorships

MFT is seeking corporate sponsorships for 1998, for which extensive publicity, tickets and some exciting advertising packages are available. Special thanks to all our present sponsors, without whom MFT could not exist.

Editorial

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